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PROTECT YOUR PINES . . . FROM BARK BEETLES

#52

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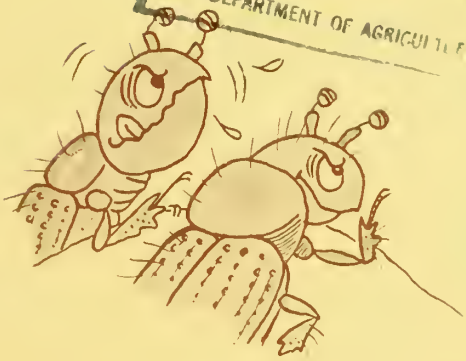

by
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&
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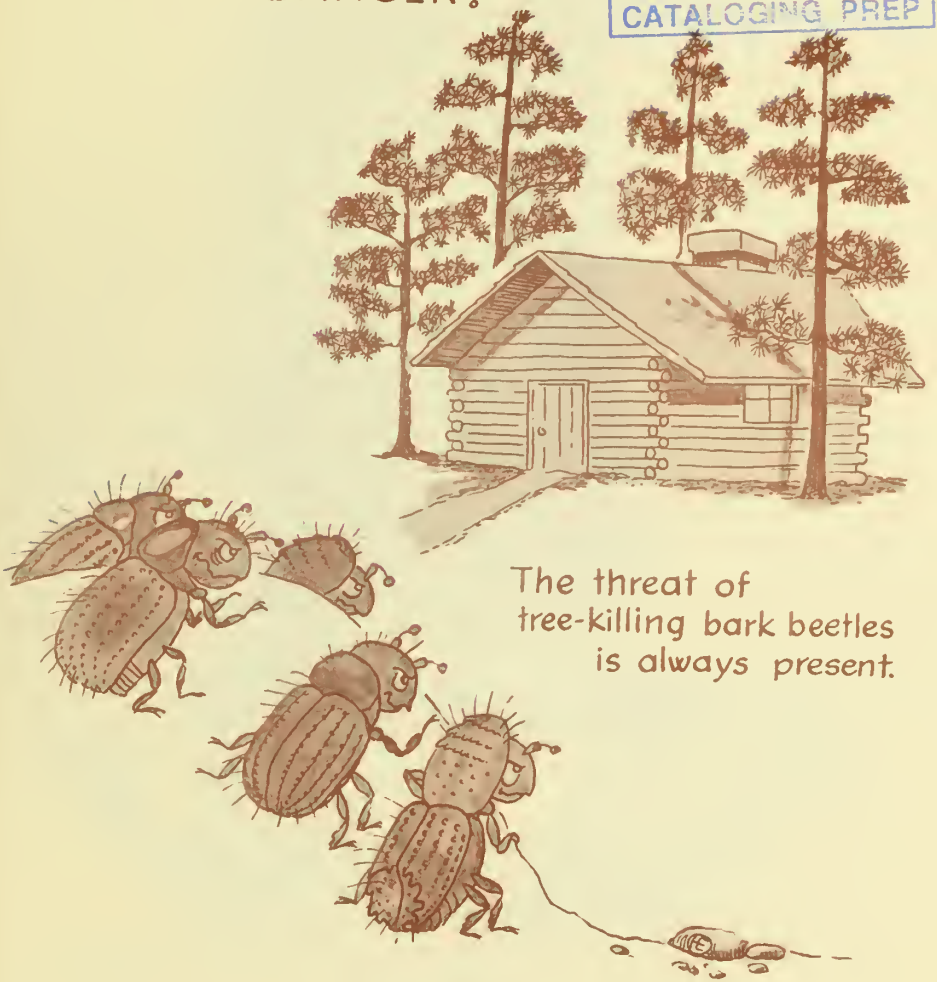
CATALOGING PREP

YOUR PINES ARE IN DANGER!



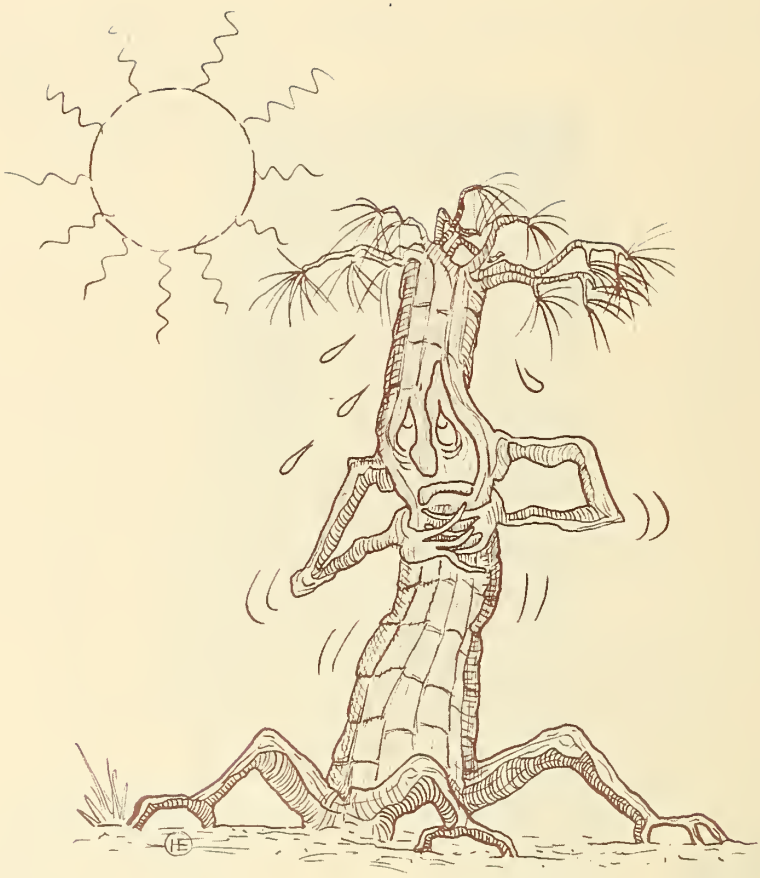
The threat of tree-killing bark beetles is always present.

Bark beetles are dark brown insects about the length of a match head.

They bore into the bark and make channels between the bark and wood, laying eggs as they go.

The eggs hatch into soft-bodied grubs, born hungry!

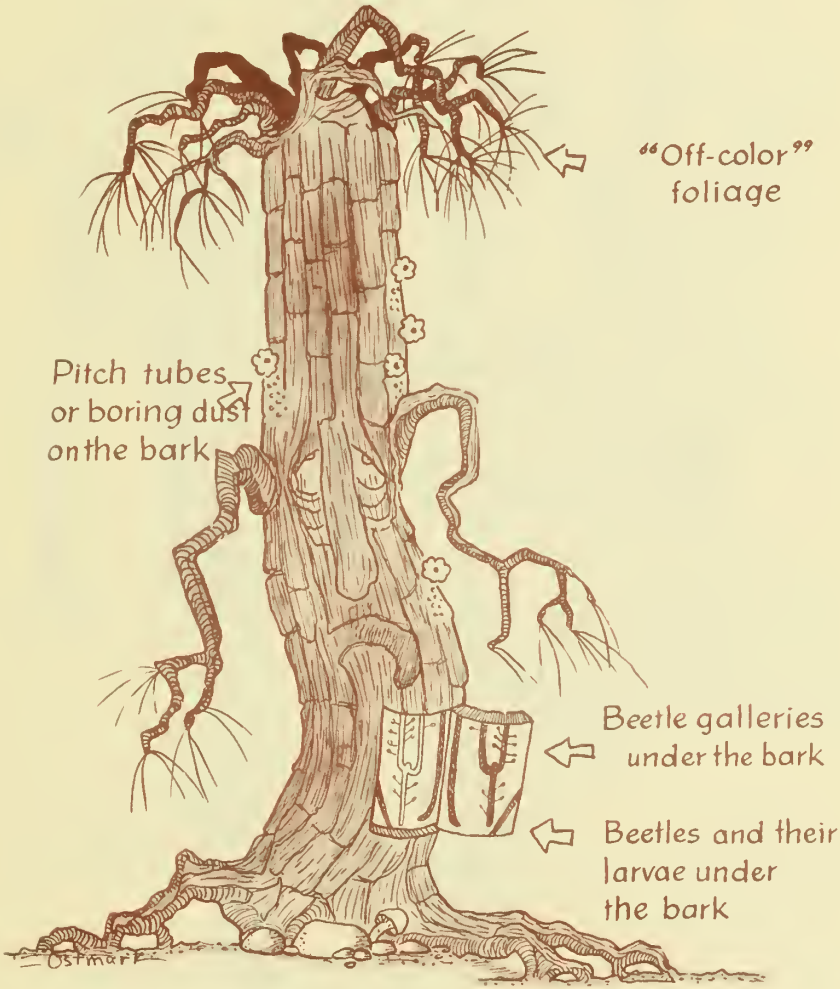
The grubs burrow around in the inner bark actually GIRDLING the tree from the INSIDE.



As if this isn't enough, they bring tiny fungus spores into the tree. These sprout and clog the tree's water-conducting system.

The tree weakens and slowly dies of thirst.

Fortunately, the presence of bark beetles can be spotted by watching for these danger signs:


"Off-color" foliage
Pitch tubes or boring dust on the bark
Beetle galleries under the bark
Beetles and their larvae under the bark
Ostmar

If allowed to go unchecked, they multiply into tremendous numbers, then move from tree to tree, killing larger and larger groups.

Once the beetles have a foothold, it's time for direct action . . . FAST !

The trees' natural defense is to "pitch" invading beetles out.

Healthy trees do this with ease.

However, during long dry spells when the trees are weak, or when large populations of beetles have been allowed to build up . . .

into the trees they go.

Sometimes people aid the bark beetles' cause.

How often have you . . .

Strangled pines with cables and clotheslines?

Smothered them with earth piled around their trunks?

Cut off their water supply with cement patios?

Left freshly cut wood from road or nearby house construction, as breeding places for the beetles?

Abused trees are highly susceptible to bark beetles!

One easy way to stop the pests is to cut the infested trees down.

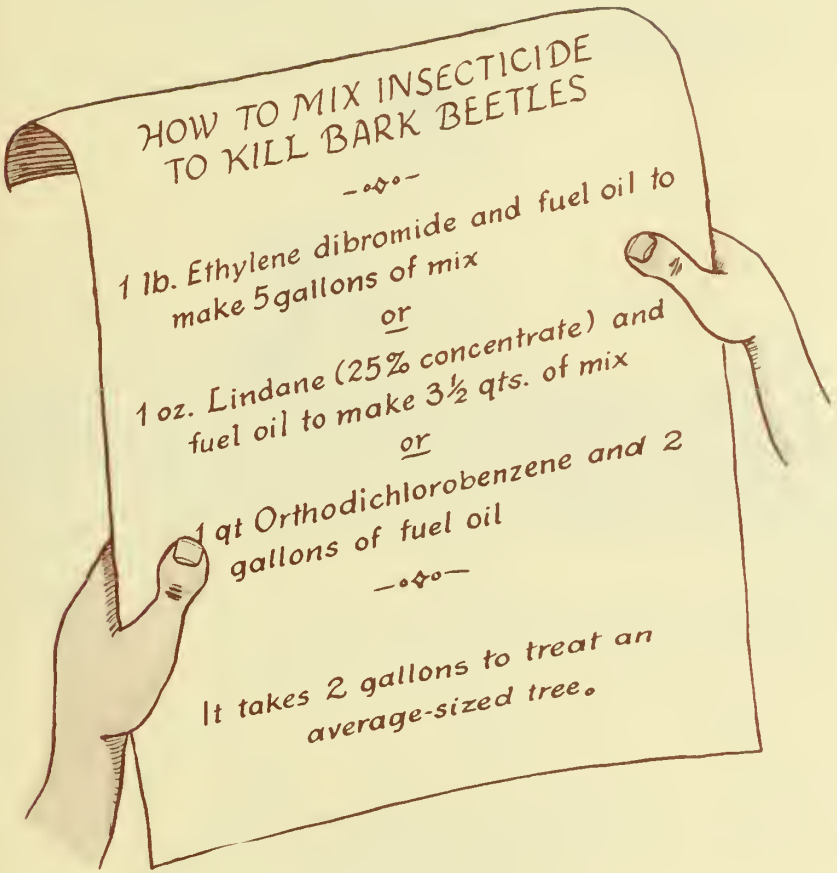
Then burn the infested bark immediately!

Always consult the local Ranger on fire conditions first.

Delay in burning will allow the beetles to escape and continue their destruction.

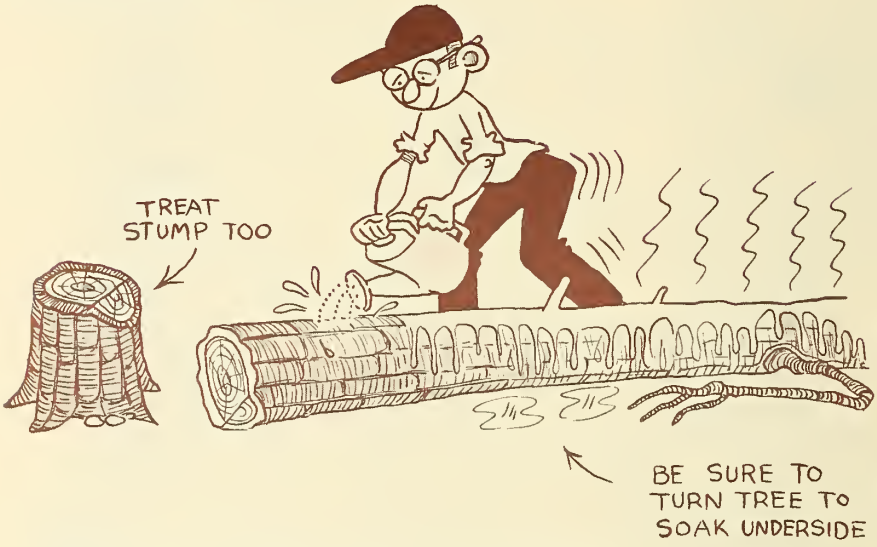
When burning is inconvenient or unsafe, apply a bark-penetrating insecticide to kill the beetles under the bark.

This procedure is simple. (See chart next page)


HOW TO MIX INSECTICIDE
TO KILL BARK BEETLES
1 lb. Ethylene dibromide and fuel oil to make 5 gallons of mix
or
1 oz. Lindane (25% concentrate) and fuel oil to make 3½ qts. of mix
or
1 qt Orthodichlorobenzene and 2 gallons of fuel oil
It takes 2 gallons to treat an average-sized tree.

CAUTION: These insecticides are dangerous. If the solution gets on your skin, wash it off with soap and water. Follow the precautions on the label.

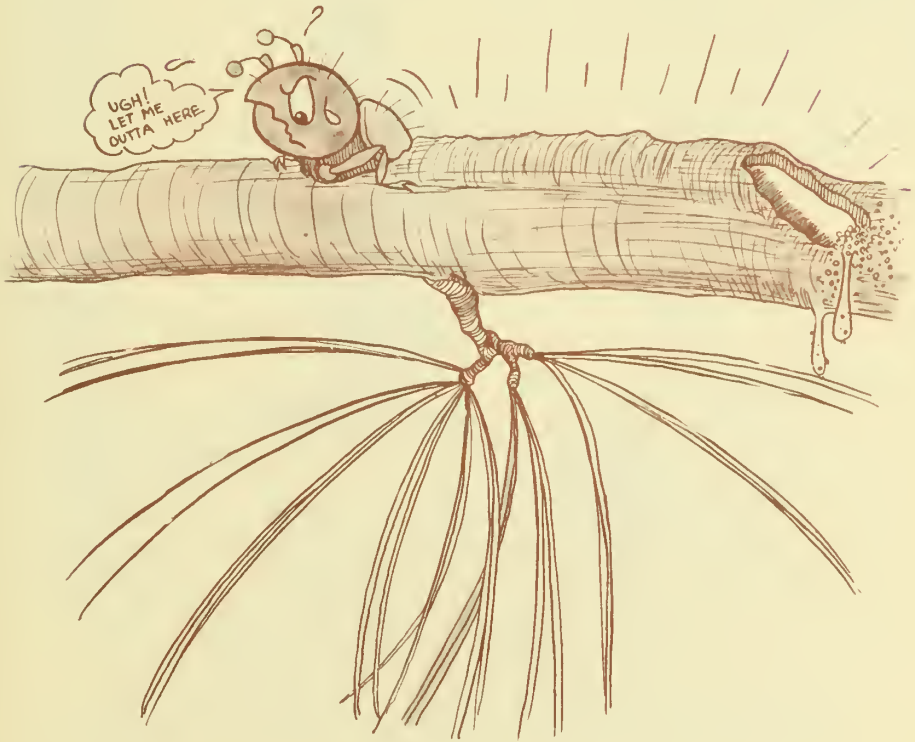
Put the mixed insecticide in a watering can or garden sprayer.



Soak the entire trunk of the tree.

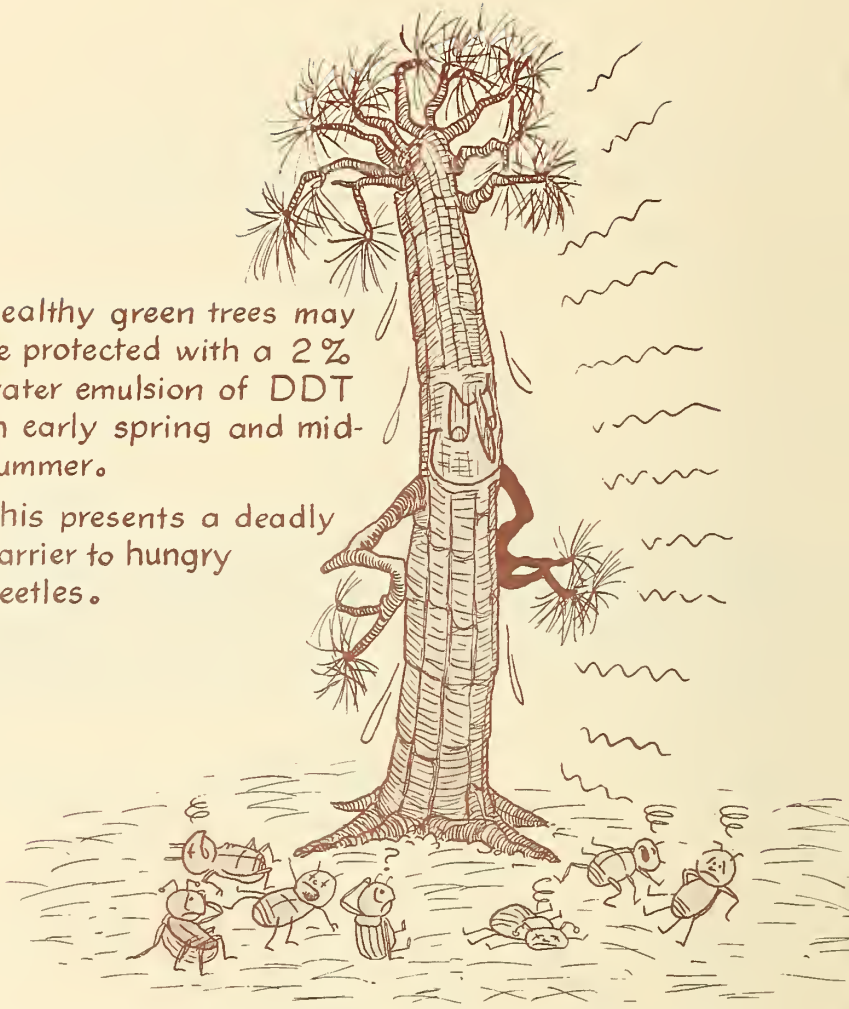
USE CARE; these chemicals are
toxic to humans too.

Bark beetles generally don't like the cramped quarters of small-diameter twigs and branches, so there's no need to treat them.

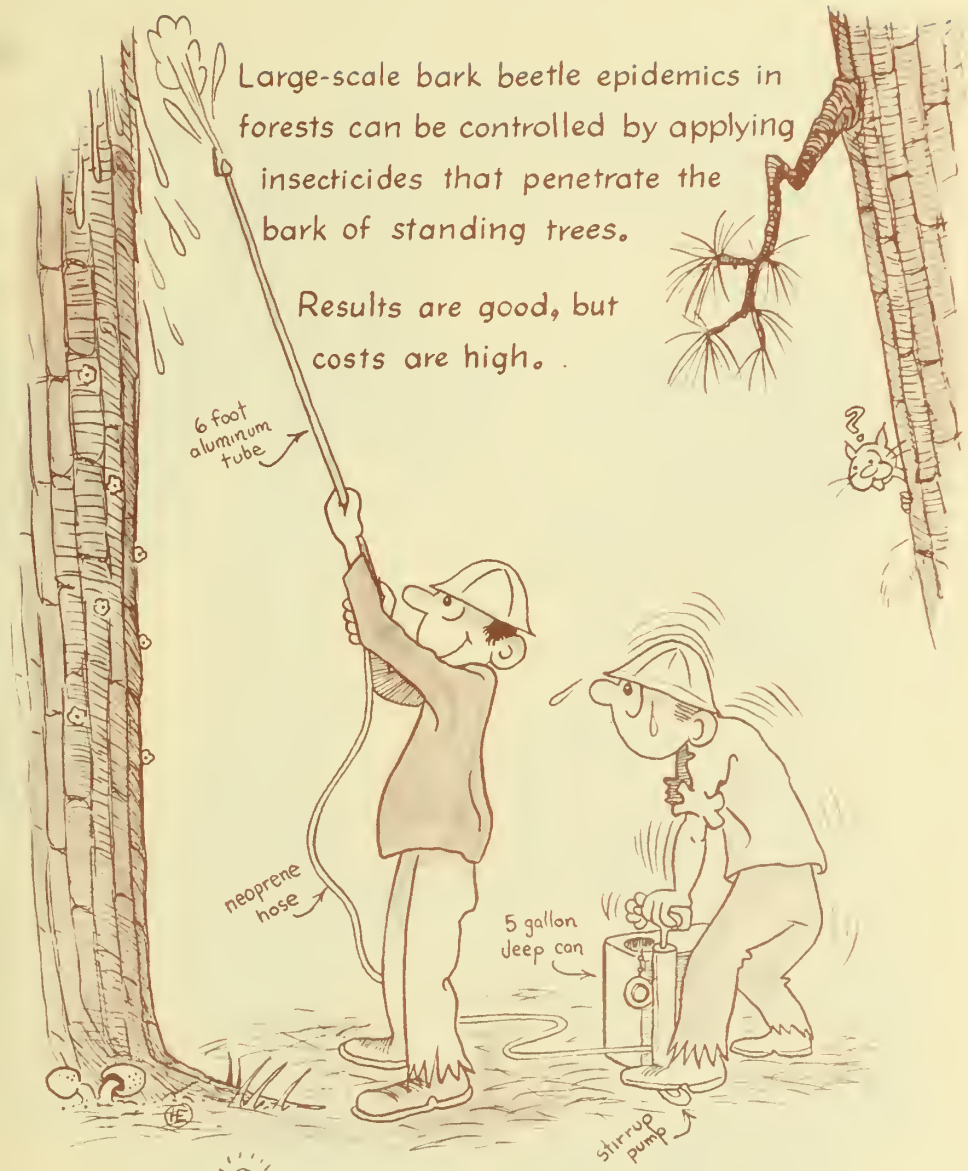


Healthy green trees may be protected with a 2% water emulsion of DDT in early spring and mid-summer.

This presents a deadly barrier to hungry beetles.



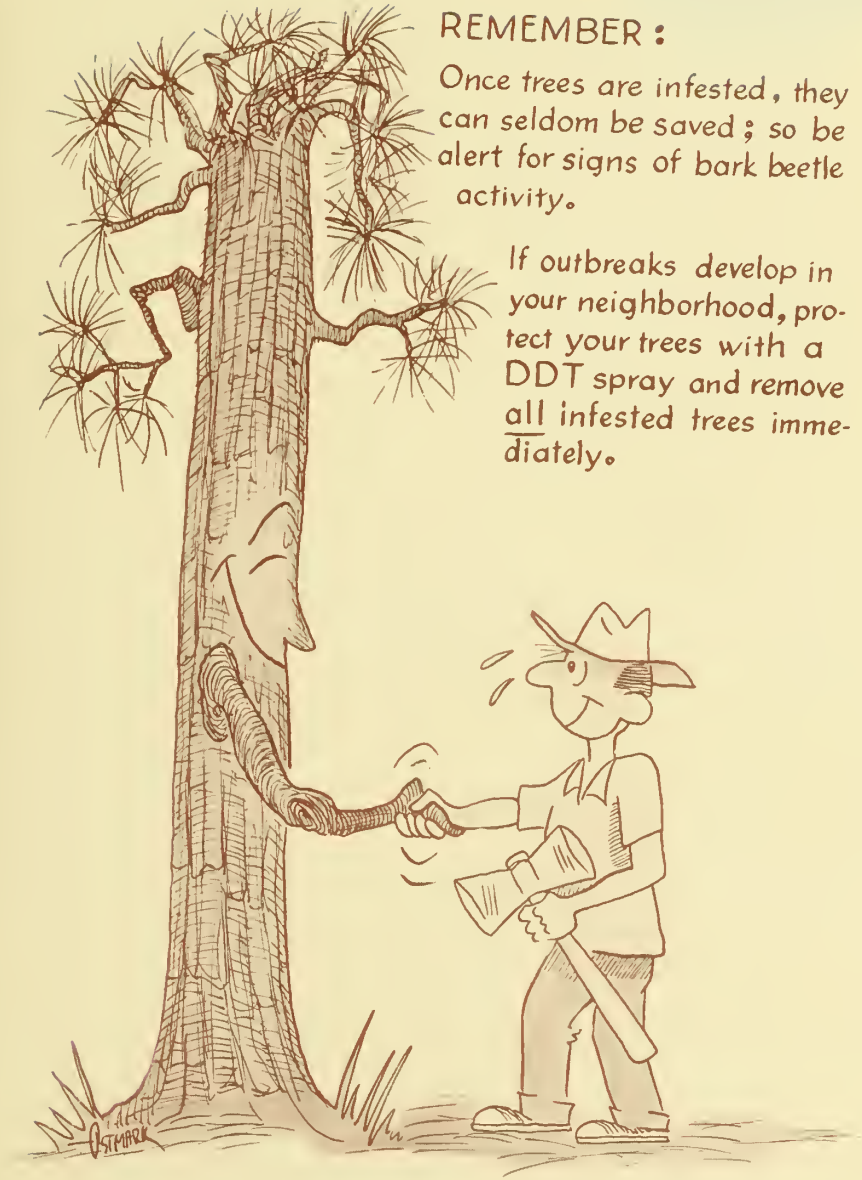
A 2-percent emulsion of DDT can be made by mixing 1 part of a 25-percent emulsifiable concentrate with 11½ parts of water. The tree trunk should be treated until the insecticide drips from the bark.


Large-scale bark beetle epidemics in forests can be controlled by applying insecticides that penetrate the bark of standing trees.
Results are good, but costs are high.
6 foot aluminum tube
neoprene hose
5 gallon Jeep can
stirrup pump

Idea

This makes a good rig for applying DDT.

Effective control is a community project. Get together with your neighbors and (1) spray or burn to kill beetles in infested trees (2) eliminate slash and weakened trees as breeding sources and (3) spray high-value trees with DDT as directed.



REMEMBER:

Once trees are infested, they can seldom be saved; so be alert for signs of bark beetle activity.

If outbreaks develop in your neighborhood, protect your trees with a DDT spray and remove all infested trees immediately.

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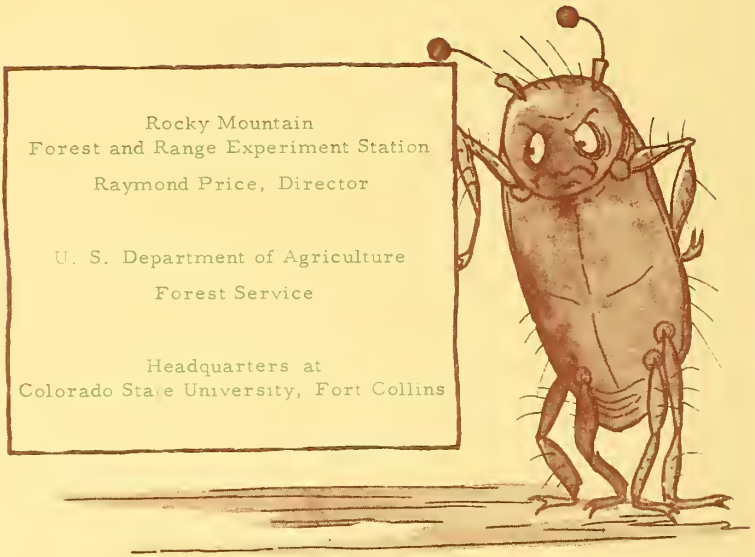

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